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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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SECRETARY SEATON ANNOUNCES EXPANDED CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that he has asked the recently reorganized United States Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a blueprint for a greatly broadened conservation program for fish and wildlife resources.

"The challenge of soundly managing our commercial fishery resources to assure a continued harvest and of meeting the growing demand for opportunities to fish and hunt at a time when those opportunities seem to be diminishing must be met head-on," Secretary Seaton declared.

A special task force will begin work shortly on a plan of action to carry out the long-range effort to meet this challenge, Secretary Seaton said.

Secretary Seaton's announcement coincided with a memorandum, which he directed be distributed to all Fish and Wildlife employees, stating the broad objective of the program and calling upon the employees to contribute suggestions and proposals to further it.

The memorandum calls for a review of policies and projects, and for development of a full effort in the Service's areas of responsibility in the conservation field.

The memorandum declared the Department must "make certain that Federal, State and private conservation activities effectively supplement each other in such a way that greatest progress can be achieved."

In discussing the program, the Secretary said two of the goals would be to solve problems of destructive drainage threatening marshes and wetlands for migratory waterfowl, and to initiate a planned program of land acquisition to meet Federal and State needs in wildlife management.

As the result of legislation approved by the 84th Congress, the Secretary continued, the Service now has the authority to undertake greatly expanded programs for commercial fisheries. The Service is reviewing every possibility which will benefit the fishing industry. All this material will be used in developing the new program.

Preliminary material in outline form already has been submitted to Secretary Seaton, forming the basis for expanded programs both for sport fisheries and wildlife and for commercial fisheries. This outline envisions a 10-year program. It is proposed that program planning should be accomplished in two segments--immediate, short-range goals which, in turn, will contribute to long-range objectives.

The special "task force" committee is divided into two groups representing the component bureaus of the Service. These task forces will consolidate planning material, establish priorities and spell out research programs.

Chairmen of the two groups will meet in Washington on December 17 and 18, for a briefing session. Members of the committee will be relieved of their regular responsibilities and assigned to the Washington office of the Service beginning January 7, 1957, "for the period of time required to complete their job."

The task force representing the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is composed of:

Cecil S. Williams, Flyway Representative, Denver, Colorado, chairman; Lee E. Leager, Leader, Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Fort Collins, Colorado; William T. Krummes, Assistant Regional Director, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Lewis R. Garlick, Regional Supervisor, Game Fish and Hatcheries, Portland, Oregon; Harry A. Goodwin, Fish and Wildlife Administrator, Office of Missouri River Basin Studies, Billings, Montana; Daniel H. Janzen, Regional Director, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Travis S. Roberts, Fishery Research Biologist, Office of River Basin Studies, Vicksburg, Mississippi; Lansing A. Parker, Assistant Chief, Branch of Federal Aid, Washington, D. C.; and Edward J. Douglass, Chief, Section of Operations, Branch of Game Fish and Hatcheries, Washington, D. C.

Representing the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries will be:

Oscar E. Sette, Chief, Ocean Research, Stanford, California, chairman; Ernest Premetz, Fishery Marketing Specialist, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, Sheffield Lake, Lorain, Ohio; Harold E. Crowther, Coordinator, Saltonstall-Kennedy Programs, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, Washington, D. C.; Donald L. McKernan, Administrator, Alaska Commercial Fisheries, Juneau, Alaska; and Harvey L. Moore, Assistant Chief, Section of Marine Fisheries, Branch of Fishery Biology, Washington, D. C.

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